



Church of Santa Maria

40 Santa Maria Way | Orinda CA 94563 | 925-254-2426 | www.SantaMariaOrinda.com

Seeking the lessons in the absence of normality

*A new Archbishop sees a
call to action in the empty
churches*

*Pictured: Archbishop Hartmayer of Atlanta
celebrates his installation in a quiet, empty
church (credit: EWTN)*



6th Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2020

A new Archbishop of Atlanta was recently installed. Not a particularly newsworthy event outside the Atlanta area - except that what the new Archbishop said in his installation homily caught my attention.

Referring to the "living stones" (the people of God) about whom St. Peter wrote in his Epistle, the Archbishop noted that they were not there. The Archbishop was preaching to an empty Cathedral. Although the ceremony was being "live-streamed" (or "streamlined," as I keep calling it!), the usual congregation of colleagues, collaborators, friends, and family could not be there because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I mention the barren pews, missing choir and instrumental ensemble, and lack of resounding responses and enthusiastic voices raised in song because empty churches are, frankly, every Bishop's (and pastor's) worst nightmare. They almost always indicate contraction or crisis, lost communities or lost opportunities."

The Archbishop points out that in time, we will be able to resume our normal activities, but what lessons will we take from these weeks of vacant churches and no reception of Holy Communion? There are places in our world and our country where nearly-empty churches are not limited to times of global pandemic; places where our precious faith has succumbed to our secular culture, to inertia, to scandal, and to a whole host of powerful negative forces. We have all heard the expression: "We don't know how much we have until we lose it."

Perhaps we don't want to believe that the importance of the Eucharist has

diminished among Catholics, yet the Archbishop reminds us that statistically it is difficult to argue against it: too often Sunday Mass is viewed as just one among many options for a Sunday, and not always a very high priority compared to sports, shopping, sleeping in, or just "vegging."

The Archbishop concludes: "Preaching to an empty Cathedral may seem to some like a pretty disappointing way to begin this new ministry. I prefer to look at it differently. I see this empty Cathedral as a call to action, a stark and powerful reminder of what could happen if we let up, for even a moment, if we ever get complacent or begin to take what He has given us for granted."

My prayer as your pastor is that all of us come to a deeper appreciation of our Catholic faith, and resolve to practice it more ardently.

O God, come to our assistance. Lord, make haste to help us.

*Father George Mockel
Pastor*

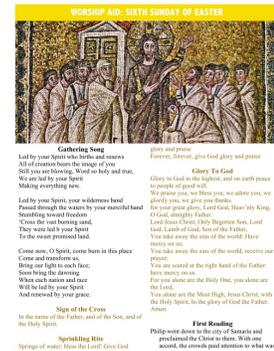
Weekend Worship Opportunities May 17, 2020

8:30am | [Livestreamed Mass](#) (available all day)
10:30am | Parking Lot Benediction

[Download and print the Worship Aid here](#)

Join us again in the parking lot at 10:30am for the Liturgy of the Word and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Click on the image to open or print this Sunday's worship aid for your convenience. All text in BLACK will be used for Benediction.



Thank you for your financial support!

Thank you for your extraordinary financial generosity during this "extraordinary" time. Our Easter collection was \$33,967.00. I am most grateful.



It has taken longer to compute and report our collections because, due to "Shelter in Place" orders, we do not have our wonderful crew of collection counters, and must utilize some staff maintaining both social distancing and the required separation of duties. We appreciate your understanding.

Catholic Charities' Annual Appeal is this weekend

In Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, Catholic Charities East Bay is one of few organizations that help pay rent to prevent homelessness. They have been supporting our community through rent assistance, legal services, and mental health support to families and young people impacted by violence.

In the past 2 months alone, they provided \$309,000 to 134 families who risked becoming homeless.

Sadly, due to the pandemic and ensuing economic conditions, they are experiencing a 70% increase in requests for help.

Please give generously to this annual appeal!

Drive-Thru Food Collection Wednesday

We're doing a Drive-Thru Food Collection to benefit families at St. Cornelius and St. Peter Martyr!

Simply fill a grocery bag with these specific nonperishable food items listed below, and deliver the bag on Wednesday between 11 and 1:

- 1 can tomato sauce
- 1 package pasta
- 4 cans soup
- 1 can vegetables
- 1 can fruit
- 1 bag rice (2 lbs)
- 1 bag beans (2 lbs)
- 1 bottle cooking oil (48 oz)
- 1 box cereal (1 lb)
- 1 bag flour

Questions? Contact [Janet Riley](#) or [Gail Gabriel](#)!

Get a mask, do some good!

Gail Gabriel, co-chair of the Social Justice Committee, has been making face coverings to contribute to the upcoming drive-thru food collection May 20th.

She is asking for a \$10 donation per mask, which will go directly to food purchasing. 43 masks are currently available. If you are interested in getting a mask please [contact Gail directly](#)!



"Like" us on Facebook!

To make it easier for you to know when we're live-streaming things like Sunday Mass and Tuesday Adoration, to easily share photos from Parking Lot Benediction, and to connect with other parishioners throughout the week, you can "like" us on Facebook!



High Noon at Santa Maria: Monday through Thursday!

Our Pastoral Team recently subscribed to the Pro version of Zoom, which means we're able

to do it for more cool things now. Here are a our new weekday offerings this week:

Monday Prayer Hour at Noon with Megan

[Join Zoom Meeting by clicking here](#)

Meeting ID: 986 6498 4683

Password: 574014



Tuesday Adoration at Noon on Facebook Live

[Click here at or slightly before noon](#)

No account or password needed; simply scroll down to the "Happening Now" section

If you DO have a Facebook account, feel free to comment your prayer intentions and we will add them to ours!

Wednesday Faith Sharing at Noon with Tony

[Join Zoom Meeting by clicking here](#)

Meeting ID: 981 1876 8033

Password: 822861

Thursday Rosary at Noon with Deacon Jim

[Join Zoom Meeting by clicking here](#)

Meeting ID: 984 2873 9419

Password: 361075

How can I keep supporting Santa Maria?

Thank you so much for thinking about us and continuing to support our parish during these trying times! We are greatly appreciative of any help you can provide.

You may mail a check to the Parish Office (40 Santa Maria Way, Orinda CA 94563), or [make a one-time donation using Faith Direct](#), our eGiving service, to make your Easter offering.

If you would like, you can also [sign up for recurring giving through Faith Direct](#) to continue to give to the Sunday plate even though you can't come to the church to drop it in the basket as usual. Again, we thank you for your planning and your generosity!



Pastoral Team

Reverend George Mockel

Pastor

gmockel@smparish.org

Deacon Rey Encarnacion

dcn.rey@smparish.org x310

Prayer Intentions

For the Sick:

Liduvina Acosta, Sonny Acosta, Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoab Aryan, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Kathie Brady, Cara Bradbury, Maria Carmen, Fred Chavaria, Grace Parent DeBoot, Rich Delany, Lorna Elliott, Anne Emery,

Deacon James Pearce

dcnpearce@smparish.org x301

Mirna Wong

Administrative Assistant

mirnawong@smparish.org x301

Tony Millette

Liturgy and Music

tmillette@smparish.org

Sister Mary Margaret Phan, LHC

Faith Formation (Grades K-5)

srmmpfan@smparish.org x306

Megan Arteaga

Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12),

Communications, and CYO

megan@smparish.org x308

Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC

Pastoral Care of the Sick

sisttermn@smparish.org x309

Sister Magdalena Duong, LHC

Bookkeeper

sistermagdalena@smparish.org x305

Nora Enriquez, Emidio Fonseca, Liam Foley, Patricia Fox, Bridget Gallagher, Noreen Gillham, Doris Hale, Florentino Ibabao, Brian Kelly, Mason Kelly, Aileen Kelly, Michael Kelly, Jim Kennedy, Jerry Kirk, Lawrence Knapp, Carol Koupus, Judy Lazarus, Jim Marchetti, Rose Mary McPhee, Robert Nick, Arsi Orihuella, Deacon Jim Pearce, Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark Ricci, Ben Richey, Patrick Sheehy, Jean Wells, Faye Young

Would you like to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list? Please contact Mirna in the Parish Office at 925-254-2426 or at mirnawong@smparish.org.

Mass Intentions

All Mass Intentions during Shelter in Place orders are either postponed or celebrated privately. Mirna is contacting all those who requested the currently scheduled intentions.

To request a Mass Intention, please contact Mirna in the Parish Office.

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Maria**

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Facebook**